

The Gut Check's RB Scouting Analysis

Name: **School:** **Opponent:** **Surface:**
Height: **Year:** **Score:** **Climate:**
Weight: **Date:** **Location:** **Temperature:**

Overall Score:

Power Score :

Game Stats

Leg power, drives through arm tackles [1pt]:
Effective stiff arm [1pt]:
Initiates contact, runs behind pads, and punishes defenders [1pt]
Good body lean/Finishes runs [3pts]:
Gains yards after contact/second-third effort runner [7pts]:

Attempts:
Rush Yds:
Ist Downs:
Rush Tds:
Target:
Rec:
Rec Yds:
Rec Tds:
Fumbles:
Broken Tackles:
BLKs Assigned:
BLKs Made:

Balance Score :

High performance in adverse conditions [1pt]:
Maintains balance when hit head-on [1pt]:
Maintains balance when it from an indirect angle [7pts]:

BHandling Score :

Carries ball with either hand [1pt]:
Consistently handles QB/RB exchanges [3pts]:
Demonstrates ball security [3pts]:
Maintains control of ball when hit [7pts]:
Maintains control of ball in adverse weather conditions [1pt]:

Speed Score :

Effective short area burst [7pts]:
Separates from 1st and 2nd wave of defenders [1pt]:
Effective outside runner [3pts]:

Vision Score:

Makes good decisions with where to run [7pts]:
Patience in traffic (sets up blocks) [3pts]:
Takes good angles away from defenders in the open field [1pt]:

Elusiveness Score

Effective lower body jukes while on the run [3pts]:
Effective upper body jukes while on the run [1pt]:
Avoids direct shots [7pts]:
Effective stop-start movements [2pts]:
Effective lateral movement [3pts]:

Blocking Score :

Correct diagnosis of blocking assignments [1pt]:
Effort with assignments [3pts]:
Willingness to block in the open field and on broken plays [1pt]

Receiving and Routes Score :

Consistently makes receptions on catchable balls [3 pts]
Makes difficult catch [1pt]:
Catches ball effectively with back to the quarterback [1pt]:
Consistently catches ball with hands and without juggling [1pt]
Consistent target in the passing game [3pts]:
Runs precise routes [1pt]:

Durability Score :

Missed fewer than 10% of opportunities to play [1pt]:
Performs at high level while playing with an injury [1pt]:
No chronic injuries (Two or more injuries to same body part) [1pt]:
No injuries requiring extensive rehabilitation [7 pts]

Player: Jerome Harrison

Date: 10/15/2005

Opponent: UCLA

Overall Strengths: Harrison had 100 yards with 4:14 left in the 1st QTR and it was his ninth consecutive 100-yard game dating back to 2004. He is a very patient runner that follows his blockers and strings moves together in the open field to create more daylight. Harrison keeps runs alive and gains extra yardage due to his balance and vision. He's a deceptive type of player because physically he doesn't look impressive. In fact, he looks more like a slot receiver in an NFL offense. Harrison has great stamina, vision, and balance. He played all but one play through the first three quarters. He doesn't leave the game after a big run. He had a 39-yard run in the 3rd quarter and actually was the recipient of the ball on two more plays. After those two plays, he did not look tired at all. He has a good nose for openings in his line. Harrison is not flashy, but he is an intelligent runner. When you look at his play, he has a style that is similar to Priest Holmes. They are about the same size, they both have adequate but not great speed, and they run with patience. I'm not proclaiming Harrison will be the next Priest Holmes. But if he can spot holes and burst through them in the NFL like he did in college, he can be a highly productive starter in the right system.

Overall Weaknesses: Harrison is very quick and shifty, but does not appear to have game-breaking speed. Nor is he a powerful runner. Harrison won't move a pile or break a lot of tackles in the NFL because he's of fairly slight build. The statline says he's 5-10, but he looks shorter. He appears to be in great shape but he doesn't have that powerful kind of low center of gravity. Body type and movements reminds me of Clinton Portis' running style, but without the game-breaking speed. All of his big runs today were the result of excellent offensive line play that opened running lanes big enough for Harrison to get into the second wave of the defense before he had to do anything on his own. Once the run lanes tightened up in the 4th QTR, Harrison was not as effective.

Power: Harrison demonstrates good body lean to finish his runs. His thighs are well-muscled, but doesn't appear to have a very big upper body. He is reminiscent of a guy like Thomas Jones when he was at college--not big, but runs hard and has good balance. Harrison is not a powerful runner, but presents a difficult target for opposing defenders to get a solid angle on him. I never saw Harrison have to use a traditional stiff arm to the body, but he frequently uses his hand to push away the hands of tacklers and throw them off balance.

Ball Handling: On a handoff in the 1st QTR, Harrison fumbled the ball because he didn't follow the ball into his hands. He primarily uses his right hand to carry the ball regardless of the side of the field where he's running. In the 4th QTR, he did switch the ball to his left arm on a pitch in that direction. It was good he did, because the penetration into the backfield would have had a better chance create the turnover if it were in his right. Harrison fumbled the ball out of bounds near the end of the half on a swing pass after tripping over his own feet to make a move on the safety coming over the top.

Elusiveness: On Harrison's third carry, he made a nice cut back inside the tackle and wound up running for 56 yards and a score. He has nice feet and can make quick moves to cut back with little effort. Harrison is good at stringing moves together when he gets into the open field. On the carry that put Harrison's game total over the 200-yard mark (a 39-yard run), Harrison cut back and outran the first and second wave of DL's and LBs. He has good enough feet to change direction after going full speed with either a jump cut or nice footwork. In this game, Harrison demonstrate strong lateral moves in the open field.

Balance: Runs with good balance. Glancing blows from an indirect angle won't knock this guy off his feet. Has good feet and changes direction well.

Speed: Harrison doesn't appear very fast. He doesn't seem to have the long speed that consistently separates him from the second level. His 56-yard run had some excellent blocking in the second level. Harrison appeared as if he wasn't running at full speed because he was waiting for his blocks to set up. Yet, once he got past everyone he still didn't look like he was running any faster. When they ran the same play later in the 1st QTR, Harrison had enough of a burst to separate himself from an undersized linebacker and get into the secondary. He tried to cut away from the playside blocking and got caught from behind inside the 5-yard line. It still looks like he can get caught from behind consistently on runs longer than 40-yards, but his 40-yard speed appears good enough to generate big plays if he gets past the first level of the defense. What appears to make Harrison dangerous is his short area quickness and burst. He is a very agile back that gets into the second level quickly and can change directions with excellent quickness.

Blocking: Harrison's first assignment was against a defender off the edge of the QBs blindside on a deep pass play to the WR. He positioned himself in the right place to force the defender further outside, but did not make a lot of contact. His second assignment was to help out on the edge, but his effort was not aggressive enough and the defender went right by him after initial contact. Fortunately the ball was delivered quickly. In the 4th QTR, Harrison completely missed his assignment on a 2-man blitz to one side. Harrison identified the correct defender but missed him on the block. The blitzing player almost got to his QB and the pressure effectively forced the QB to throw early. Harrison did a nice job with his efforts to block opponents in the open field when the QB scrambled or broke the pocket..

Vision: Harrison had some huge holes to run through against the UCLA defense. He is very good at following his lead blockers and positioning himself behind them until the block is made. He also does a good job finding yards in small gaps when there aren't huge lanes. His open field vision is very strong. On this second touchdown, he set up a block from a wide receiver coming across the field with a little hesitation before making a strong cut to the right--a nice demonstration of patience.

Receiving and Routes: Harrison does a good job on the basic RB routes and became a more regular part of the short passing game this year. He caught each of his three targets with his hands. He's a very good option out of the backfield because of his talent in the open field.

Durability: Harrison is a well-conditioned athlete. He's a workhorse for this Cougar offense and frequently stays in the game after 4-5 consecutive carries. He's wearing out the UCLA defense. Harrison is beginning to punish LBs and safeties when they get in his way, and carrying defenders on his back through the pile at this point. I am attributing this more to Harrison's durability because the UCLA defense looks tired and he still looks as fresh as he did at the beginning of the game. UCLA's line is also undersized. Yet, Harrison has logged over 300 carries this year and did not break down. This is a durable back despite his size, and could surprise an NFL team.

Character: